Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-39 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-80. (Canceled)

81. (New): A method performed in a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system, the method comprising:

reading a key definition from a database in response to receiving a request for a processing parameter from a first program, wherein the key definition includes the identity of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data;

selecting a search mask table that corresponds to the key definition, wherein the selected search mask table comprises one or more search masks;

reading a first search mask from the selected search mask table, wherein the first search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values identified in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value;

transferring one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a first processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value;

transferring a wildcard value to the first processing key value in response to the search mask field

value indicating that a wildcard value is to be written to the processing key value;

comparing the first processing key value to one or more key values in the database;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between

the first processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the

database;

creating one or more additional processing key values if the first processing key value does not

match any of the one or more key values stored in the database, wherein the one or more

additional processing key values are formed using one or more additional search masks

obtained from the selected search mask table;

comparing the one or more additional processing key values to one or more key values in the

database until a match is found between at least one of the one or more additional

processing key values;

sending the processing parameter value associated with the matching key value in the database to

the first program;

wherein the processing parameter value sent to the first program is configured for use in

processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

82. (New): The method of claim 81, wherein the one or more key values in the database are

defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer

system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program

on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.

83. (New): The method of claim 81, wherein the database further comprises a plurality of

processing parameter tables, wherein each processing parameter table comprises one or more

rows, wherein each row in the processing parameter table comprises one processing parameter

value and one key value.

84. (New): The method of claim 83, wherein the key definition is one of a plurality of key definitions in the database, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database is associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables in the database.

85. (New): The method of claim 84, wherein the plurality of key definitions are stored in one or more key definition tables, each key definition table being associated with one or more of the plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein reading the key definition from the database comprises reading the key definition from a key definition table associated with a processing parameter table selected based on the transaction-related data.

86. (New): A computer system for processing Financial Service Organization (FSO) transactions, the system comprising:

a computer program;

a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system;

wherein the computer program is executable on the computer system to execute:

reading a key definition from a database in response to receiving a request for a processing parameter from a first program, wherein the key definition includes the identity of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data;

selecting a search mask table that corresponds to the key definition, wherein the selected search mask table comprises one or more search masks;

reading a first search mask from the selected search mask table, wherein the first search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values identified in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value;

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transferring one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-
related data to a first processing key value in response to the search mask
field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-
related data is to be written to the processing key value;

transferring a wildcard value to the first processing key value in response to the
search mask field value indicating that a wildcard value is to be written to
the processing key value;

comparing the first processing key value to one or more key values in the
database;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a
match between the first processing key value and one of the one or more
key values stored in the database;

creating one or more additional processing key values if the first processing key
value does not match any of the one or more key values stored in the
database, wherein the one or more additional processing key values are
formed using one or more additional search masks obtained from the
selected search mask table;

comparing the one or more additional processing key values to one or more key
values in the database until a match is found between at least one of the
one or more additional processing key values;

sending the processing parameter value associated with the matching key value in
the database to the first program;

wherein the processing parameter value sent to the first program is configured for
use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

87. (New): The system of claim 86, wherein the one or more key values in the database are
defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer

system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.

88. (New): The system of claim 86, wherein the database further comprises a plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein each processing parameter table comprises one or more rows, wherein each row in the processing parameter table comprises one processing parameter value and one key value.

89. (New): The system of claim 88, wherein the key definition is one of a plurality of key definitions in the database, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database is associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables in the database.

90. (New): The system of claim 89, wherein the plurality of key definitions are stored in one or more key definition tables, each key definition table being associated with one or more of the plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein reading the key definition from the database comprises reading the key definition from a key definition table associated with a processing parameter table selected based on the transaction-related data.

91. (New): A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system to implement:

reading a key definition from a database in response to receiving a request for a processing parameter from a first program, wherein the key definition includes the identity of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data;

selecting a search mask table that corresponds to the key definition, wherein the selected search mask table comprises one or more search masks;

reading a first search mask from the selected search mask table, wherein the first search

mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values identified in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value;

transferring one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a first processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value;

transferring a wildcard value to the first processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that a wildcard value is to be written to the processing key value;

comparing the first processing key value to one or more key values in the database;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the first processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database;

creating one or more additional processing key values if the first processing key value does not match any of the one or more key values stored in the database, wherein the one or more additional processing key values are formed using one or more additional search masks obtained from the selected search mask table;

comparing the one or more additional processing key values to one or more key values in the database until a match is found between at least one of the one or more additional processing key values;

sending the processing parameter value associated with the matching key value in the database to the first program;

wherein the processing parameter value sent to the first program is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

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92. (New): The carrier medium of claim 91, wherein the one or more key values in the database are defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.

93. (New): The carrier medium of claim 91, wherein the database further comprises a plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein each processing parameter table comprises one or more rows, wherein each row in the processing parameter table comprises one processing parameter value and one key value.

94. (New): The carrier medium of claim 93, wherein the key definition is one of a plurality of key definitions in the database, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database is associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables in the database.

95. (New): The carrier medium of claim 94, wherein the plurality of key definitions are stored in one or more key definition tables, each key definition table being associated with one or more of the plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein reading the key definition from the database comprises reading the key definition from a key definition table associated with a processing parameter table selected based on the transaction-related data.